

June 13, 2024



D.C. Update: NASADAD Executive Director Presents at Capitol Hill Briefing, NIAAA Announces Strategic Plan for Fiscal Year 2024-2028, CDC Releases State Tobacco-Related Disparities Dashboard, and More.

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Meet The Member

Dannette Smith, SSA for Colorado, Commissioner, Behavioral Health Administration, Colorado Department of Human Services

Dannette R. Smith was named Commissioner of the Behavioral Health Administration at the Colorado Department of Human Services in February 2024. Commissioner Smith is a visionary executive leader with more than 25 years serving families, children, the aging population, and individuals experiencing homelessness. She has led various human services departments across the nation, utilizing data-driven outcomes and engagement strategies and fostering community involvement, all with the goal of developing innovative, stable, and effective programs.



Prior to her appointment to the Colorado Department of Human Services, Commissioner Smith served nearly five years as Chief Executive Officer at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, where she supported five divisions: Behavioral Health, Children and Family Services, Developmental Disabilities, Medicaid & Long-Term Care, and Public Health. During her tenure in Nebraska, she convened a statewide behavioral health task force, as well as initiated the exploration of Medicaid utilization as a payer for mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services, and redesigned the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center system to include intensive clinical and therapeutic services in the juvenile justice system.

The 2023 recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), Commissioner Smith holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Eastern Michigan University and a Masters degree in Social Work from the University of Illinois Chicago. She has also completed the Kennedy School of Government Child Welfare Executive Leadership Program at Harvard.

Commissioner Smith is a proud mom and godmother of three brilliant young women - in her free time she loves to visit with them, read, and golf.

NASADAD News

NASADAD Executive Director Rob Morrison Presents on Panel at Capitol Hill Briefing

On June 12, NASADAD Executive Director Rob Morrison had the privilege of presenting as part of a panel at a briefing held by Treatment Communities of America, in conjunction with the House Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus, on *“Integrated SUD Care: Meeting All of the Client’s Needs.”* Mr. Morrison’s presentation outlined the critical role State Alcohol and Drug



Agencies play in ensuring the effective and efficient provision of substance use disorder (SUD) services, how State Alcohol and Drug Agencies support providers, and priority federal programs that fund the substance use system. The briefing featured opening remarks from Representative Paul Tonko (D-NY-20), who serves as Co-Chair of the Congressional Addiction, Treatment, and Recovery Caucus.

Other speakers on the panel included:

- **Eman Gibson**, Chief Clinical Officer, Integrity House - New Jersey
- **Seep Varma**, Chief Executive Officer, Stay’n Out/New York Therapeutic Communities - New York
- **Shawn Jenkins**, Chief Operating Officer, Westcare - Nevada
- **Moderator: Edward Carlson**, Chief Executive Officer, Odyssey House - Louisiana

The slide deck from the presentation can be found on NASADAD’s webpage, [here](#).

(Pictured L to R: Shawn Jenkins, Westcare; Eman Gibson, Integrity House; Seep Varma, Stay’n Out/New York Therapeutic Communities; Rob Morrison, NASADAD; Rep. Paul Tonko; and Edward Carlson, Odyssey House)

Capitol Hill Happenings

Senators Send Letter Urging HHS, Departments of Labor, and Treasury to Finalize 2023 Mental Health Parity Proposed Rules

On June 6, a group of senators sent a [letter](#) to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra, Employee Benefits Security Administration Assistant Secretary Lisa Gomez, and Internal Revenue Service Deputy Commissioner Douglas O’Donnell urging the departments to finalize the [2023 Requirements Related to the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act proposed rules](#) to strengthen the enforcement of the [2008 Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act](#). The letter raised concerns over parity as patients remain unable to access critical mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services due to restrictive practices from insurance

companies, including low reimbursement rates, failure to contract with providers, and managed care practices that hinder providers from joining insurance networks and offering care to patients. The 2023 proposed rules are designed to close loopholes in the Act, expand narrow insurance networks, and prohibit insurance companies' restrictive practices that are preventing people from accessing care.

The letter was led by Senators Murphy (CT), Welch (VT), and Padilla (CA), and co-signed by Senators Markey (MA), Smith (MN), Klobuchar (MN), and Luján (NM). The senators are urging the departments to finalize the proposed rules as soon as possible.

Senator Murphy's press release announcing the letter can be found [here](#).

Bipartisan Bill Introduced in Senate to Reauthorize the Second Chance Act

On June 5, a bipartisan group of senators introduced the [Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2024 \(S.4477\)](#), a bill to reauthorize the [Second Chance Act of 2007 \(P.L. 110-199\)](#), which would reauthorize a number of critical reentry programs, for an additional five years through Fiscal Year (FY) 2029. Community reentry services provided by the *Second Chance Act* include housing services, career training, and treatment for mental health and substance use disorder (SUD), as well as education on drug overdose and reversal medications. Specifically, the *Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2024* would:

- “Reauthorize key grant programs that provide vital services, supports, and resources for people reentering their communities after incarceration;
- Expand allowable uses for supportive and transitional housing services for individuals reentering the community from prison and jail; and
- Enhance addiction treatment services for individuals with substance use disorders, including peer recovery services, case management, and overdose prevention.”

The bill was introduced by Senators Capito (R-WV), Booker (D-NJ), Durbin (D-IL), Cornyn (R-TX), and Welch (D-VT), and is cosponsored by Senators Tillis (R-NC), Cramer (R-ND), and Klobuchar (D-MN).

Senator Capito's press release announcing the bill can be found [here](#).

Additionally, on June 4, a [national support letter](#) signed by 145 organizations was sent to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary Chair Senator Durbin (D-IL) and Ranking Member Senator Graham (R-SC), as well as to the House Committee on the Judiciary Chair Representative Jordan (R-OH-4) and Ranking Member Representative Nadler (D-NY-12). The letter expresses strong support from national, State, and local organizations for the *Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2024*.

NASADAD signed onto the letter and is supportive of the *Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2024 (S.4477)*.

Around the Agencies

NIAAA Announces Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2024-2028

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) announced the release of its [Strategic Plan: Fiscal Years 2024-2028: Advancing Alcohol Research to Promote Health and Well-Being](#). The strategic plan outlines NIAAA's long-term priorities and main research areas, including preventing alcohol misuse, enhancing the diagnosis of alcohol use disorder (AUD) and fetal alcohol syndrome disorder (FASD), improving treatment for AUD and related conditions, and addressing health disparities in alcohol misuse and related consequences. The strategic plan also highlights research themes, research programs, research goals, and resources to support the mission. Specifically, the strategic plan's primary research goals include:



National Institute
on Alcohol Abuse
and Alcoholism

1. “Elucidate the Biological Mechanisms and Consequences of Alcohol Misuse
2. Identify Patterns, Trends, and Public Health Impact of Alcohol Misuse
3. Prevent and Reduce Alcohol Misuse, Alcohol Use Disorder, and Associated Consequences
4. Improve Diagnosis and Expand Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder and Alcohol-Related Conditions”

The strategic plan was developed in consultation with NIAAA leadership and staff, along with external researchers, advocacy groups, and professional societies.

NIAAA Director Dr. George Koob’s press release announcing the strategic plan can be found [here](#).

The strategic plan can be downloaded in full, [here](#).

SAMHSA Issue Brief: Expanding Peer Support and Supporting the Peer Workforce in Mental Health

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) published a new issue brief on [Expanding Peer Support and Supporting the Peer Workforce in Mental Health](#). The issue brief is intended for State Mental Health Authorities (SMHA) and outlines the benefits of peer support services and the inclusion of the peer workforce throughout the full mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) continuum of care. Specifically, the brief “... highlights current standards and best practices for including peer support workers as an essential component of services delivery for mental and co-occurring disorders, like substance use disorder (SUD).”

The issue brief can be downloaded [here](#).

CMS Releases FAQs on Medicaid and CHIP Coverage of Peer Support Services



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in collaboration with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), recently released clarification and answers to

[Frequently Asked Questions on Medicaid and CHIP Coverage of Peer Support Services](#).

These frequently asked questions (FAQ) are designed to encourage States to expand the availability of peer support services for individuals with mental health and substance use disorders (SUD). Specifically, these FAQs aim to clarify federal policy on coverage of peer support services as determined by the 2007 [State Medicaid Director \(SMD\) letter #07-011](#), which established that States may offer peer support services as a component of a comprehensive mental health and substance use service system.

Further, the FAQ offers links to additional SAMHSA resources and technical assistance opportunities to support States in their coverage determinations.

CDC Releases State Tobacco-Related Disparities Dashboard

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released an interactive [State Tobacco-Related Disparities Dashboard](#). This dashboard provides a visualization platform where visitors can explore timely data on cigarette smoking prevalence and related disparities in States by various demographic factors, as well as by prevalence of mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) diagnoses. The dashboard seeks to help visitors identify opportunities for improvement within tobacco cessation activities and inform efforts to address tobacco-related disparities in each State.

CDC’s User Guide for the dashboard can be downloaded [here](#).

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) recently released a report on [Contingency Management for Substance Use Disorders](#).

The report provides background on the use of contingency management (CM) as an evidence-based intervention for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, federal support and regulation of CM over time, including federal fraud and abuse laws, and recent actions from the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) related to CM incentives. Further, the report examines the components of effective CM, including frequency of the reinforcer, immediacy of the reinforcer, and magnitude of the reinforcer, finding that, "... higher monetary value and more frequent and immediate delivery of rewards are typically associated with a larger effect on behavior change."

Webinars to Watch

SAMHSA Webinar: Fireside Chat: Family Engagement in the Treatment for Youth with Mental Health and Substance Use

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in collaboration with Carelon Behavioral Health, is hosting a webinar on [Fireside Chat: Family Engagement in the Treatment for Youth with Mental Health and Substance Use](#).

This no-cost webinar is on June 14, at 2:00 pm ET. The webinar will feature Dr. Billina Shaw, Senior Medical Advisor at SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), and Andrea Goetz, Executive Director at Carelon Behavioral Health's Child and Family Division, who will discuss best practices to enhance youth and family engagement in mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment. Specific chat topics include:

- "Address family engagement within treatment of youth mental health & substance use disorder;
- Integration and expansion of youth and family peer support workforce; and
- Strategies/addressing delays in access to appropriate behavioral health treatment at multiple levels of care"

Registration is required

REMINDER: CAI CoE-TFR Webinar: Introduction to the National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery



This is a reminder that Cicitelli Associates Inc.'s (CAI) [National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery \(CoE-TFR\)](#), a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded initiative, is hosting a webinar on [Introduction to the National Center of Excellence for Tobacco-Free Recovery](#). This no-cost webinar is on June 20, at 1:00 pm ET. The webinar will provide background on the five-year initiative, highlight how it is engaging various stakeholders who use tobacco to end disparities in commercial tobacco use for people with mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) conditions, and outline strategies to effectively deliver evidence-based tobacco cessation interventions. Learning objectives include:

- "Describing disparities in health outcomes for people with behavioral health conditions who use commercial tobacco products.
- Identifying what policy, systems, practices, and social norms changes we need to make to get next level outcomes.
- Exploring how to:
 - Access training for staff working in behavioral health care settings on effective evidence-based tobacco cessation interventions.
 - Request technical assistance to foster implementation of evidence-based interventions; policy, systems, and practice changes; and make connections to peers and resources.

- Identify quality resources, materials, and toolkits to guide your approach; and
- Be part of Cross-State Leadership Academies for Tobacco-Free Recovery to build state health department leaders' capacity, working with your peers from across the nation and experts to plan and lead policy, system, practice, and social norm changes in your own state.”

Registration is required.

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